IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A method for transporting bodywork panels (12) of a vehicle by means of an endless transport device (10), equipped with a plurality of carrier units (16) that are spaced at intervals in the transport direction (14), ~~characterized in that~~ comprising:

stacking an associated group (18) of panels ~~is stacked~~ on at least one carrier unit (16),

transporting the group (18) of panels ~~is transported~~ as far as a panel removal station (20) and

in each case removing an individual bodywork panel (12) ~~is removed~~ by a panel separation device (22).

2. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the bodywork panels (12) of a respective group (18) of panels are arranged stacked on edge in the carrier unit (16) at a panel group formation station (24).

3. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the group (18) of panels in the carrier unit (16) is built up by means of the successive deposition of individual bodywork panels (12).

4. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 3, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the individual bodywork panels (12) are deposited in the carrier unit (16) manually or in an automated manner, forming the group (18) of panels.

5. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 2 ~~one of claims 2 to 4~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the group (18) of panels is transported from the panel group formation station (24) as far as the panel removal station (20) in a transport direction (14) that extends obliquely upward.

6. (currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1 ~~one of the preceding claims~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the respective group (18) of panels is transported by means of the transport device (10) during a predefinable cycle time, the cycle time depending on the required panel separation time of a complete group (18) of panels respectively located at the panel removal station (20).

7. (currently amended) A transport device (10) for ~~implementing the method as claimed in one of the preceding claims~~, ~~characterized in that the respective carrier unit (16) has at least one carrier element (26) projecting substantially at right angles to the transport direction (14).~~ transporting bodywork panels (12) of a vehicle, the transport device (10) being endless and provided with a

plurality of carrier units (16) that are spaced at intervals in the transport direction (14), each respective carrier unit (16) having at least one carrier element (26) projecting substantially perpendicular to the transport direction (14), such that:

an associated group (18) of panels can be stacked on at least one carrier unit (16),

the group (18) of panels can be transported as far as a panel removal station (20), and

in each case an individual bodywork panel (12) can be removed by a panel separation device (22) at the panel removal station (20),

wherein the transport device (10) is an inclined transport device.

8. (currently amended) The transport device as claimed in claim 7, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the position of the carrier element (26) can be adjusted in the transport direction (14).

9. (currently amended) The transport device as claimed in claim 7 ~~or 8~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the position of the carrier element (26) can be adjusted transversely with respect to the transport direction (14).

10. (currently amended) The transport device as claimed in claim 7 ~~one of claims 7 to 9~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein

the number and/or the design construction of the carrier elements (26) used in a carrier unit (16) can be varied as a function of the geometric shape of a bodywork panel (12).

11. (currently amended) The transport device as claimed in claim 7 ~~one of claims 7 to 10~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it is ~~constructed as~~ a chain transport device.

12. (currently amended) The transport device as claimed in claim 7 ~~one of claims 7 to 11~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein it is an inclined transport device~~, in particular~~ with an adjustable transport direction (14).

13. (currently amended) The transport device as claimed in claim 7 ~~one of claims 7 to 12~~, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the panel separation device (22) is constructed as a panel removal pivoting gripper.